

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 8, 9, 13 and 15(8) are allowed.

Claims 1-7, 10-12, 14 and 15(7, 10, 11) are canceled.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §102

Claims 7 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 (b) as being anticipated by Japanese Patent Publication 02-274431 (Kurihara et al.).

Claims 7 and 11 have been canceled. Thus, the rejection as it applies to claims 7 and 11 is moot.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §103

Claims 12(7, 11) and 15(7, 11) are rejected under U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese Patent Publication 02-274431 (Kurihara et al.) in view Japanese Patent Publication 11-046091 (Kubota).

Claims 12(7, 11) and 15(7, 11) have been canceled. Thus, the rejection as it applies to claims 12(7, 11) and 15(7, 11) is moot.

Claims 10 and 14 are rejected under U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese Patent Publication 02-274431 (Kurihara et al.) in view Ando et al. (U.S. 5,598,986).

Claims 10 and 14 have been canceled. Thus, the rejection as it applies to claims 10 and 14 is moot.

Claims 12(10) and 15(10) are rejected under U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese Patent Publication 02-274431 (Kurihara et al.) in view Ando et al. (U.S. 5,598,986) as applied to claim 10 above, and further in view of Japanese Patent Publication 11-046091 (Kubota).

Claims 12(10) and 15(10) have been canceled. Thus, the rejection as it applies to claims 12(10) and 15(10) is moot.

In consideration of the foregoing analysis, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the application is not in a condition for allowance, the examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of the present application.

Appl. No. 10/527,668
Amdt. Dated July 7, 2008
Reply to Office action of April 7, 2008

If there are any fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our
Deposit Account No. 16-0820, our Order No. NGB-37938 .

Respectfully submitted,

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